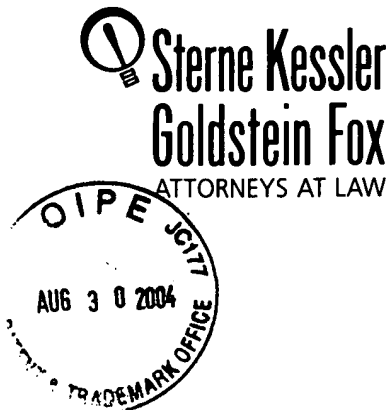


EPW



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey
Heidi L. Kraus
Albert L. Ferro*
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beaston
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes

Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Christine M. Lhullier
Rae Lynn Prengaman
George S. Bardmesser
Daniel A. Klein*
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Andrea J. Kamage
Tracy L. Muller
LuAnne M. DeSantis
Ann E. Summerfield
Tiera S. Coston
Aric W. Ledford*
Helene C. Carlson
Timothy A. Doyle
Jessica L. Parezo
Gaby L. Longworth*

Lori A. Gordon*
Nicole D. Dretar*
Ted J. Ebersole
Jyoti C. Iyer*
Laura A. Vogel

Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren
Victoria S. Rutherford
Michelle K. Holoubek

Robert H. DeSelms
Simon J. Elliott
Julie A. Heider
Mita Mukherjee
Scott M. Woodhouse
Michael G. Penn
Christopher J. Walsh

Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Evan R. Smith
Marvin C. Guthrie

*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
•Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

August 30, 2004

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 772-8560
INTERNET ADDRESS:
RESMOND@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 1634

Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/613,903; Filed: July 11, 2000
For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**
Inventor: Heather J. Jordan
Our Ref: 0942.4450001/RWE/TSC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Robert W. Esmond

Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,893

RWE/dab
305016_1.DOC
Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Heather J. JORDAN

Appl. No.: 09/613,903

Filed: July 11, 2000

For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**

Confirmation No.: 1446

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Sisson, Bradley L.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4450001/RWE/TSC

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop Amendment

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated August 23, 2004, Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.